

June 8, 2022

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program. This is the program's twenty-third year, and so far, it has helped to protect over 421,200 acres of open space throughout the state. The program provides financial assistance to municipalities and non-profit land conservation organizations to acquire land for open space and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II water supply property.

This is a highly competitive grant program and funding is limited. Only the highest priority projects will be awarded funding. Projects are evaluated by statutorily defined parameters and ranked based on many factors including public access, environmental justice and equity, climate change benefits, recreational value and past grant compliance.

Please read this year's application carefully as we made some changes based on last year's request for public comments and feedback from our OSWA review board. Please only submit applications for projects that can close within an 18-month period, so the easement can be recorded and the public access components (signage, trails, and parking) can be completed within two years.

The Department is currently accepting applications under this program. Please submit applications by September 30, 2022. Please review the attached materials carefully as they will guide you in completing your application.

Open Space provides immense value to Connecticut – significantly improving the quality of life for residents, attracting visitors and prospective residents from across the region and the country, and helping to mitigate the devastating impacts of climate change. Now more than ever, we must work to provide equitable access to Open Space for all Connecticut residents. Thank you for all you do to protect open space in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

*Katie S. Dykes*

Katie S. Dykes  
Commissioner